

PRESS RELEASE

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT MARINE UNIT

On October 16, 2011 during the Head of the Connecticut Regatta on the Connecticut River several "Skulls" or Crew Boats capsized as a result of rough waters and a strong wind current. The skulls had been occupied by both High School and College athletes and were just north of Wilcox Island. The skulls turned over sending approximately eighteen crew members into the cold waters with a strong current.

The Middletown Police Marine Unit along with the Middletown Fire Department, South District Fire Department, Coast Guard, Cromwell PD, and a civilian watercraft "The Pearl" assisted in the rescue.

Officers removed crew members from the water, some of which were brought to "The Pearl" for transport back to the docks at the Canoe Club at Harbor Park in Middletown. Others remained on the Police and Fire Department boats as they too were transported to The Canoe Club at the The Harbor Park Docks.

All crew members were evaluated by Hunters Ambulance personnel at the Canoe Club. There were no injuries reported and additional medical care was not necessary.

Racing was halted for a period time as the race officials assessed the water conditions. Eventually the race course was shortened for safety reasons. Several races were also cancelled as a result of the conditions.